



JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

Post Office Box 1629
Charleston, West Virginia 25326-1629
(304) 558-0169 • FAX (304) 558-0831
December 28, 1999

Re: JIC Advisory Opinion 1999-17

Dear :

Your recent request for an advisory opinion was reviewed by the Judicial Investigation Commission. Pursuant to your letter to the Commission you asked whether your stepdaughter could act as treasurer for your election committee. It is the Commission's understanding that this person is an adult living outside your household.

To address the request which you have made the Commission reviewed Canon 5C(2), which states in relevant part:

Canon 5. A judge or judicial candidate shall refrain from inappropriate political activity.

C. Judges and candidates subject to public election.

(2) A candidate shall not personally solicit or accept campaign contributions or personally solicit publicly stated support. A candidate may, however, establish committees of responsible persons to conduct campaigns for the candidate through media advertisements, brochures, mailings, candidate forums, and other means not prohibited by law. Such committees may solicit and accept reasonable campaign contributions, manage the expenditure of funds for the candidate's campaign and obtain public statements of support for his or her candidacy. . . .

Based on the language contained in this section of Canon 5 as well as the current relationship between you and your stepdaughter, it is the opinion of the Commission that there would be no prohibition against her serving as your campaign committee. If you have any further question regarding this matter do not hesitate to contact the Commission.

Very truly yours,

John W. Bennett, Chairman

JWB:nb